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Deputy Chief, Economic Research Area

10 September 1956

Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Comments on "Handling Quantitative Data."

1. Generally speaking, I think the proposed schedule reflects the needs of ORR. There are, however, two or three modifications which would be worth considering.

2. The topic for 6 November is called "Comparing Time Variables." It seems to me that more time is required for this topic unless, per chance, it is planned to consider time series analysis again under other headings. It should be pointed out that a large part of our work calls for the use of time series and that a number of special problems arise, particularly when a comparison of US and USSR series is required, which requires of the analyst some knowledge of the sort of economic factors influencing US series. Moreover there is always the question of correcting time series stated in value terms for price changes and this subject also needs some formal attention.

3. 13 November, "Graphic and Tabular Analysis" might be accorded two periods. From my point of view, we seem to make so many errors, both in tabular and in graphic preparation (and we are required so frequently to prepare tables and charts) that we might well give this further emphasis in this course.

4. In order to accommodate these changes within the presently planned time schedule, it would be possible to reduce the number of periods given to correlation. Possibly in this elementary course we should give this subject not more than one period aiming simply at an introduction to the idea of correlation.

5. I am not certain what the term "Logical Analysis," 8 November, covers.

6. Finally, I hope that the third session, "Practical Problems in Measuring Quantity" will open up for the students the very real complexities which arise out of the definition of units.

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